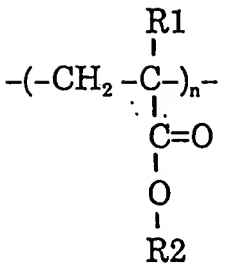
a metal soap,



formula (1)

wherein R1 is one of a hydrogen atom and a methyl group, and R2 is one of an alkyl group having 4 to 22 carbon atoms and a derivative thereof.

2. (Amended) The ink as set forth in claim 1 wherein said metal soap is a metallic salt of a fatty acid wherein the number of carbon atoms of said fatty acid is 6 to 12.

3. (Amended) The ink as set forth in claim 2 wherein said fatty acid is selected from the group consisting of naphthenic acid, octylic acid and a mixture thereof.

5. (Amended) The ink as set forth in claim 1 wherein said ink has a volume resistivity of at least 10^{10} Ωcm at a temperature of 25 °C and said color material has a ζ potential of at least 90 mV.

6. (Amended) An electrostatic ink jet recording apparatus comprising the ink as set forth in claim 1.

7. (Amended) A method of controlling electrostatic charge of a color material in an ink for an ink jet printer, comprising:

adding, to an ink comprising a dispersant mainly consisting of an aliphatic hydrocarbon solvent and a color material insoluble in said dispersant, a metal soap and a polymer having repeating units represented by the following general formula (1) and soluble in said dispersant,